

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder
~~having a specific surface area of between 5 and 600 m²/g and a carbon content of less~~
~~than 500 ppm, wherein the pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder displays~~ having
the following characteristics:

- a specific surface area of between 5 and 600 m²/g;
- a specific dibutyl phthalate absorption of less than or equal to 1.2 g dibutyl
phthalate/100 g SiO₂ per m² of specific surface area;
- and a specific thickening effect of less than 15 mPas per m² of specific surface
area,

wherein said powder has a carbon content of less than 500 ppm
and a chloride content of less than 20 ppm.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder
according to claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ a specific compacted bulk density is between 1000 and
10000 g/l x m² of specific surface area.

Claim 3 (Canceled):

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process for ~~the production of the pyrogenically produced~~ making the silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1, ~~wherein comprising:~~

- premixing and supplying vaporous tetramethoxysilane, ~~and/or~~ tetraethoxysilane, or a combination thereof ~~together~~ with air or with oxygen-enriched air to a burner present in a reaction chamber; and
- separately supplying hydrogen to said burner to form a mixture with said tetramethoxysilane, tetraethoxysilane, or combination thereof;
- introducing secondary air to said reaction chamber;
- reacting said mixture in a flame of said burner; and
- separating solid reaction product from a gas stream,

wherein a lambda value in said burner is from 0.95 to 1.5, and a lambda value for said secondary air is from 0.8 to 1.6

- ~~—— are supplied to a burner, and the mixture of gases is allowed to react in a flame in a reaction chamber connected in series to the burner, and the solid reaction product is separated from the gas stream by known means,~~
- ~~—— the lambda value in the burner being between 0.95 and 1.5 and~~
- ~~—— sufficient secondary air also being supplied to the reaction chamber that the lambda value in the reaction chamber is between 0.8 and 1.6.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, wherein ~~the a~~ volume ratio of oxygen/hydrogen in the burner is between 0.2 and 2.8.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 4, wherein ~~the a~~ discharge velocity of the gases leaving the burner is at least 10 ms^{-1} .

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An aqueous dispersion comprising water and the pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The aqueous dispersion according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ a content of silicon dioxide powder in the dispersion is between 20 and 80 wt% ~~wt.0%~~.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The aqueous dispersion according to claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ an average aggregate diameter in the dispersion is less than 200 nm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The aqueous dispersion according to claim 7, wherein the aqueous dispersion ~~contains additives~~ further comprises an additive selected from the group consisting of an oxidizing agent, a per-acid, an oxidation activator, a corrosion inhibitor, or a surfactant.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A process for the production of the aqueous dispersion according to claim 7, comprising: ~~wherein the~~
incorporating said pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder ~~is incorporated~~
with a dispersing device into water, and
stabilizing said aqueous dispersion by adding at least one of a base, a cationic polymer, an aluminium salt, a mixture of a cationic polymer and an aluminium salt, or an acid to form a stabilized aqueous dispersion.

~~which can be stabilised by the addition of bases or cationic polymers or aluminium salts or a mixture of cationic polymers and aluminium salts or acids, and is then dispersed.~~

Claims 12 - 16 (Canceled):

Claim 17 (Withdrawn - Currently Amended): A method of adjusting the rheology of paint or a coating comprising adding the pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1 to the paint or the coating.

Claim 18 (Canceled):

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~An article comprising the filler as claimed in claim 18 wherein the article is a~~ A rubber product, a silicone rubber product, a plastic product or a paper product comprising the silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1 as a filler.

Claim 20 (Canceled):

Claim 21 (New): The aqueous dispersion according to claim 7, where a content of silicon dioxide powder in the dispersion is between 40 and 60 wt%.

Claim 22 (New): The process according to claim 11, wherein said stabilizing occurs in the presence of tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide or aluminium hydroxychloride in an acid medium.

Claim 23 (New): The pyrogenically produced silicon dioxide powder according to claim 1, wherein the chloride content is less than 14 ppm.

Claim 24 (New): The process according to claim 11, further comprising dispersing said stabilized aqueous dispersion for a period of 5 to 30 minutes.

Claim 25 (New): The aqueous dispersion according to claim 10, wherein said additive is hydrogen peroxide or benzotriazole.

Claim 26 (New): The process according to claim 11, wherein said dispersing device is a rotor-stator system, a planetary compounder, or a high-energy mill.